

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01269 031958Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----010570 032005Z /70

O 031845Z MAY 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0884
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BONN

S E C R E T JERUSALEM 1269

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: : GDS
TAGS: PORG, MARR, UNSC, PLO, IS, LE, FR
SUBJECT: SIILASVUO REACTION TO FIGHTING IN TYRE AREA

SUMMARY: UPON RETURN FROM VISIT TO UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS
MAY 3, SIILAVUO DESCRIBED SITUATION CREATED AROUND TRYRE
BY PALESTINIAN INFILTRATION AS SERIOUS. HE ADMITTED THAT UNIFIL
HAS PARTLY FAILED IN ITS MISSION BECAUSE OF SUCCESSFUL
INFILTRATION BY SOME PALESTINIANAS. TO REMEDY SITUATION,
HE WILL RECOMMEND REDEPLOYMENT OF FRENCH OUT OF TYRE,
REQUEST MORE HEAVY EQUIPMENT, AND SEEK CLEAR AUTHORITY
FROM UNNY REGARDING DISARMING OF INFILTRATORS AND ARMED
PERSONNEL WITHIN UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATION. AT PRESENT
TIME, HE HAS NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO RECOMMEND
FURTHER INCREASE IN UNIFIL TROOPS STRENGTH BEYOND 6,000.
END SUMMARY.

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 01269 031958Z

1. SIILASUVO VISITED UNFIL HEADQUARTERS IN NAQOURA
MAY 3 AND WAS BRIEFED ON RECENT INCIDENTS IN TYRE
AREA BY GENERAL CUQ. APPARENTLY FIRING ON FRENCH
BARRACKS ON EVENING MAY 2 WAS ORIGINATED BY HABASH
REJECTIONISTS. ALTHOUGH PALESTINIANS PUTTING BLAME FOR
TROUBLES ON LEBANESE LEFTISTS, SIILASVUO SAYS IT IS VERY

DIFFICULT TO KNOW PRECISELY WHO IS INVOLVED.
DESPITE ARAFAT DISCLAIMERS, HE BELIEVES FATAH WAS AT
LEAST PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT INCIDENTS.

2. AS RESULT OF HIS TALKS IN NAQOURA, SIILASVUO, AFTER
DISCUSSING MATTER WITH ERSKINE LATER THIS EVENING,
INTENDS TO RECOMMEND TO UNNY THAT FRENCH FORCES BE
REDEPLOYED OUT OF TYRE BARRACKS TO REINFORCE A PERIMTERER
AROUND SOUTHERN END OF TYRE SALIENT WHILE SENEGALESE
WILL CONCENTRATE IN NORTHERN END OF SALIENT. SIILASVUO
HAD TOLD UNNY THAT UNIFIL NEEDS MORE HEAVY EQUIPMENT
INCLUDING POSSIBLY EVEN TANKS TO PROTECT UNIFIL
TROOPS IN CARRYING OUT MISSION OF PREVENTING INFILTRA-
TION.

3. SIILASVUO ADMITTED THAT SOME PALESTINIANS HAVE
ALREADY INFILTRATED BACK INTO SOUTHERN LEBANON--"PERHAPS
AS MANY AS 100 OR SO" AND IN THIS SENSE, HE FELT THAT
UNIFIL HAS PARTLY FAILED ITS MISSION. BEYOND THIS,
HE CONCERNED OVER SITUATION IN FUTURE WHEN UNIFIL
WILL BE FACED WITH DISARMING MEN IN AREAS
RECENTLY EVACUATED BY IDF AND NOT YET FULLY CONTROLLED
BY UNIFIL. HE IS ASKING UNNY FOR APPROVAL OF GUIDELINES
FOR SUCH CONFRONTATIONS.

4. WHEN TOLD OF RECENT RADIO REPORT OF PARIS REUTERS DESPTACH
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PAGE 03 JERUSA 01269 031958Z

THAT FRENCH HAVE INDICATED WILLINGNESS TO SEND 500 MORE
MEN, SIILASVUO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR SUCH FRENCH REACTION.
HE SAID HOWEVER THAT HE WAS NOT READY TO ASK UNNY FOR MORE
THAN 6,000 MEN. INSTEAD HE WOULD RATHER WAIT
AND REVIEW SITUATION AFTER NIGERIANS AND OTHER PROMISED
UNITS WERE ON GROUND.

5. COMMENT: IN SUM, SIILASVUO SEES SITUATION AROUND
TYRE AS SERIOUS BUT NOT CAUSE FOR PANIC IF TROOPS ARE
DEPLOYED AS HE RECOMMENDS AND IF HE GETS MORE HEAVY EQUIP-
MENT. HE CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT UNNY UNDERESTIMATES
THE DIFFICULTY OF UNIFIL MISSION AND MUST BE BETTER
PREPARED FOR SOME CASUALITIES SUCH AS MAY 2 INCIDENTS IF
MISSION TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. AS SIILASVUO'S
REPORT TO UNNY MAYNOT BE SENT FOR SEVERAL HOURS (UNTIL SOMETIME EARLY
AFTERNOON MAY 3 NEW YORK TIME,) WOULD APPRECIATE SPECIAL
CARE THAT HIS VIEWS NOT BE REVEALED FIRST BY US.
KRUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TROOP DEPLOYMENT, MILITARY PLANS, COMBAT OPERATIONS, INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING FORCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA01269
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780189-0352
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780598/aaaadfxq.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e63d23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2807720
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIILASVUO REACTION TO FIGHTING IN TYRE AREA SUMMARY: UPON RETURN FROM VISIT TO UNIFIL HEADQUARTERS MAY 3, SIILAVUO DESCRIBED SITUATION CREATED AROUND
TAGS: PORG, MARR, MOPS, IS, LE, FR, UNSC, PLO, UNIFIL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e63d23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014